

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 458

By Niceley

A RESOLUTION to express support for the legalization of the sale  
of custom processed meat in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly finds that there is a demand for locally raised grass-fed meats; and

WHEREAS, there is a shortage of inspected slaughterhouses in the state; and

WHEREAS, the demand for small scale, grass-fed beef is not met by producers because of a lack of access to slaughterhouses; and

WHEREAS, since the law allows owners of livestock to eat the meat from their animals when slaughtered and processed at a custom house, it should allow a consumer to purchase from livestock owners the meat of their animals that were slaughtered and processed at a custom house; a consumer has the right to assume the risk of purchasing and consuming meat slaughtered and processed at a custom house; and

WHEREAS, custom processed meat has a good track record for safety, and there is a high degree of transparency and traceability when the sale is direct from producer to consumer; and

WHEREAS, farmers will increase the market for their products by being able to sell custom slaughtered and processed meat to a consumer by the cut, rather than sell a live animal by the quarter, half, or whole, which is all the law currently allows; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we support the legalization of the sale of custom processed meat in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby urge the United States Congress to pass the Processing Revival and Intrastate Meat Exemption Act, H.R. 3187, which would give the states the option of allowing the sale of custom processed meat.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we support the introduction of legislation in the 2017 session of the General Assembly to support the legalization of the sale of custom processed meat.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to each member of the Tennessee Congressional delegation.